

PROJECT NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2012

SHA Continues Design Work, Schedules Public Meeting

The Maryland State Highway Administration continues design work on its BRAC-related intersection projects with the last phase of improvements at the MD 355 and Cedar Lane intersection in Bethesda, Montgomery County. The project will improve traffic safety, capacity, and operations at the intersection while supporting the mission and transportation needs of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). This newsletter summarizes the project and provides the project background, schedule, and information on the upcoming Public Informational Meeting.

Attend the Public Meeting!

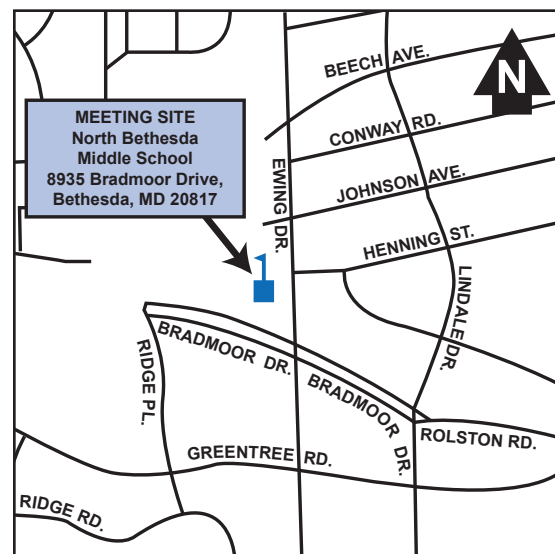
SHA invites you to attend an Informational Public Meeting at which project-related displays will be set up showing the proposed improvements. The open house format will allow attendees to review displays at their own pace, speak with project representatives, provide feedback on the proposed concepts, and specify any safety and/or mobility concerns they have within the project area. The project will also collect community feedback and gain a consensus on a potential noise barrier.

WHEN	WHERE
Tuesday, July 24, 2012 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM <i>Arrive at any time. There is no formal presentation.</i>	North Bethesda Middle School - Cafeteria 8935 Bradmoor Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817

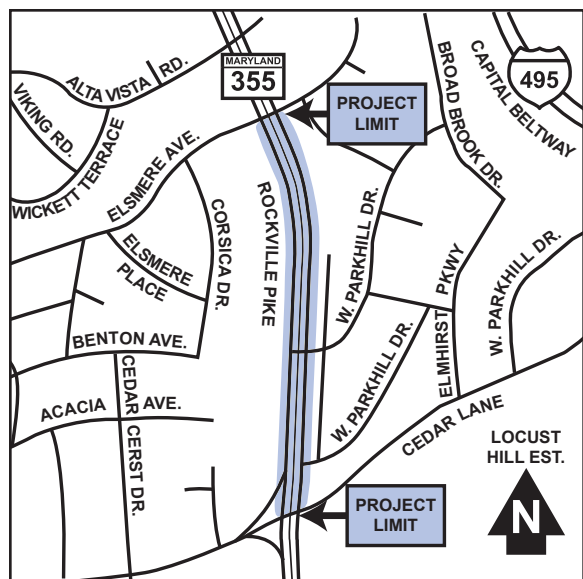
Project Overview & Purpose

The MD 355 at Cedar Lane Phase 4 project will reduce delays and traffic congestion along northbound MD 355 during evening peak hours by increasing the capacity of the northbound through movement at the Cedar Lane intersection. As part of this project, SHA and its contractors will:

- Widen the roadway along northbound MD 355 north of the Cedar Lane intersection to extend the auxiliary lane to north of Locust Hill Road.
- Construct retaining walls to support the area between MD 355 and a parallel service road.
- Construct new sidewalk along northbound MD 355.
- After evaluating community input, a noise barrier could be proposed along MD 355.



Project Limit Map



Project Background

Base Realignment and Closure or "BRAC" is the process used by the US Department of Defense to reorganize and consolidate its military bases nationwide. In preparation for the 40,000 to 60,000 direct and indirect jobs coming to Maryland over the next six to ten years due to this initiative, SHA is designing intersection improvements to improve traffic flow, pedestrian access, and safety. Design of BRAC-related roadway improvements in Bethesda began in 2007 in support of the multi-modal transportation systems around the new WRNMMC. The MD 355 at Cedar Lane project was introduced at a Public Informational Workshop in 2009 as one of several BRAC-related improvement in the Bethesda area, and its final phase has now advanced in design.

The SHA, in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and other consulting parties, has identified the central portion of the Locust Hill Estates as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Locust Hill Estates was determined eligible for listing on the NRHP on April 17, 2001 for its association with planned suburban development that occurred between 1941 and 1948. SHA will continue to consult with MHT to determine the project's effect under 36 CFR §800.4(d) caused by the MD 355 at Cedar Lane BRAC Intersection Improvements Phase 4. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 implementing regulations (36 CFR §800.2(d)), we are requesting public comments on this undertaking/proposed action.

Schedule

The project is currently funded for design. The following construction schedule is contingent on receipt of right-of-way and construction funding.

Complete Final Design **Spring 2013**

Begin Construction **Summer 2015**

Construction Completion **Fall 2016**

Questions?

For more information on this project, please visit SHA's website at www.roads.maryland.gov and click on **Projects and Studies, SHA Projects Page, Advanced Search**, and type **MD 355** in the search box. The project is listed under **Statewide Projects**. You may also contact:

Ms. Yuqiong Bai – Project Manager

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Maryland State Highway Administration

Office of Highway Development

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Request for Assistance

The Maryland Relay Service can assist teletype users at 711. Persons requiring assistance to participate, such as an interpreter for hearing/speech disabilities or assistance with the English language, should contact Ms. Bai by July 19, 2012.

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony Brown, Lieutenant Governor
Melinda B. Peters, Administrator

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